United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Water Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding (i.e., PCS)

Transaction Code	NPDES	yr/mo/day	Inspection Type	Inspector	Fac Type
N	WAU000289	100331	E	R	3

Remarks

Inspection Work Days	Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating	BI	QA	Reserved
10				

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected *(For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number)*

Sterk Dairy of Whatcom County Inc
6432 Chasteen Rd
Lynden WA 98264

Entry Time/Date: 03:00pm 03/31/2010
Exit Time/Date: 04:25pm 03/31/2010
Permit Effective Date: NA
Permit Expiration Date: NA

Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s)

John & Kevin Sterk owners & Operators
[redacted] [redacted] (b) (6)

Other Facility Data *(e.g., SIC NAICS, and other descriptive information)*

SIC 0241
Dairy Farms
unpermitted

Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number

John Sterk owner & operator
(b) (6) [redacted]

Contacted: [X] Yes [ ] No

RECEIVED
APR -2 2010
U.S. EPA REGION 10
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection *(Check only those areas evaluated)*

[ ] Permit	[ ] Self-Monitoring Program	[ ] Pretreatment	[ ] MS4
[X] **Records/Reports**	[ ] Compliance Schedules	[ ] Pollution Prevention	
[X] Facility Site Review	[ ] Laboratory	[ ] Storm Water	
[ ] Effluent/Receiving Waters	[X] Operations & Maintenance	[ ] Combined Sewer Overflow	
[ ] Flow Measurement	[ ] Sludge Handling/Disposal	[ ] Sanitary Sewer Overflow	

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

(Attach additional sheets of narrative and checklists, including Single Event Violation codes, as necessary)

SEV Codes | SEV Description

Report to follow

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
Jon Hemstad	US EPA R10 206 553-5065	04/01/2010
Sandra Brozusky	US EPA R10 206 553-5317	04/01/2010

Signature of Management Q A Reviewer	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
	EPA Reg 10 206 553 6905	8/25/10

EPA Form 3560-3 (Rev 1-06) Previous editions are obsolete.

PCS WAU000289

PCS
4-8-2010
M Brown

INSTRUCTIONS

Section A: National Data System Coding *(i.e., PCS)*

Column 1: Transaction Code: Use N, C, or D for New, Change, or Delete. All inspections will be *new* unless there is an error in the data entered.

Columns 3-11: NPDES Permit No. Enter the facility's NPDES permit number - third character in permit number indicates permit type for U=unpermitted, G=general permit, etc.. *(Use the Remarks columns to record the State permit number, if necessary.)*

Columns 12-17: Inspection Date. Insert the date entry was made into the facility. Use the year/month/day format (e.g., 04/10/01 = October 01, 2004).

Column 18: Inspection Type*. Use one of the codes listed below to describe the type of inspection:

A Performance Audit
B Compliance Biomonitoring
C Compliance Evaluation (non-sampling)
D Diagnostic
F Pretreatment (Follow-up)
G Pretreatment (Audit)
I Industrial User (IU) Inspection
J Complaints
M Multimedia
N Spill
O Compliance Evaluation (Oversight)
P Pretreatment Compliance Inspection
R Reconnaissance
S Compliance Sampling
U IU Inspection with Pretreatment Audit
X Toxics Inspection
Z Sludge - Biosolids
Combined Sewer Overflow-Sampling
$ Combined Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling
+ Sanitary Sewer Overflow-Sampling
& Sanitary Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling
\ CAFO-Sampling
= CAFO-Non-Sampling
2 IU Sampling Inspection
3 IU Non-Sampling Inspection
4 IU Toxics Inspection
5 IU Sampling Inspection with Pretreatment
6 IU Non-Sampling Inspection with Pretreatment
7 IU Toxics with Pretreatment
! Pretreatment Compliance (Oversight)
@ Follow-up (enforcement)
{ Storm Water-Construction-Sampling
} Storm Water-Construction-Non-Sampling
: Storm Water-Non-Construction-Sampling
~ Storm Water-Non-Construction-Non-Sampling
< Storm Water-MS4-Sampling
- Storm Water-MS4-Non-Sampling
> Storm Water-MS4-Audit

Column 19: Inspector Code. Use one of the codes listed below to describe the *lead agency* in the inspection.

A — State (Contractor)
B — EPA (Contractor)
E — Corps of Engineers
J — Joint EPA/State Inspectors—EPA Lead
L — Local Health Department (State)
N — NEIC Inspectors
O — Other Inspectors, Federal/EPA (Specify in Remarks columns)
P — Other Inspectors, State (Specify in Remarks columns)
R — EPA Regional Inspector
S — State Inspector
T — Joint State/EPA Inspectors—State lead

Column 20: Facility Type. Use one of the codes below to describe the facility.

1 — Municipal. Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) with 1987 Standard Industrial Code (SIC) 4952.
2 — Industrial. Other than municipal, agricultural, and Federal facilities.
3 — Agricultural. Facilities classified with 1987 SIC 0111 to 0971.
4 — Federal. Facilities identified as Federal by the EPA Regional Office.
5 — Oil & Gas. Facilities classified with 1987 SIC 1311 to 1389.

Columns 21-66: Remarks. These columns are reserved for remarks at the discretion of the Region.

Columns 67-69: Inspection Work Days. Estimate the total work effort (to the nearest 0.1 work day), up to 99.9 days, that were used to complete the inspection and submit a QA reviewed report of findings. This estimate includes the accumulative effort of all participating inspectors; any effort for laboratory analyses, testing, and remote sensing; and the billed payroll time for travel and pre and post inspection preparation. This estimate does not require detailed documentation.

Column 70: Facility Evaluation Rating. Use information gathered during the inspection (regardless of inspection type) to evaluate the quality of the facility self-monitoring program. Grade the program using a scale of 1 to 5 with a score of 5 being used for very reliable self-monitoring programs, 3 being satisfactory, and 1 being used for very unreliable programs.

Column 71: Biomonitoring Information. Enter D for static testing. Enter F for flow through testing. Enter N for no biomonitoring.

Column 72: Quality Assurance Data Inspection. Enter Q if the inspection was conducted as followup on quality assurance sample results. Enter N otherwise.

Columns 73-80: These columns are reserved for regionally defined information.

Section B: Facility Data

This section is self-explanatory except for "Other Facility Data," which may include new information not in the permit or PCS (e.g., new outfalls, names of receiving waters, new ownership, other updates to the record, SIC/NAICS Codes, Latitude/Longitude).

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

Check only those areas evaluated by marking the appropriate box. Use Section D and additional sheets as necessary. Support the findings, as necessary, in a brief narrative report. Use the headings given on the report form (e.g., Permit, Records/Reports) when discussing the areas evaluated during the inspection.

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

Briefly summarize the inspection findings. This summary should abstract the pertinent inspection findings, not replace the narrative report. Reference a list of attachments, such as completed checklists taken from the NPDES Compliance Inspection Manuals and pretreatment guidance documents, including effluent data when sampling has been done. Use extra sheets as necessary.

*Footnote: In addition to the inspection types listed above under column 18, a state may continue to use the following wet weather and CAFO inspection types until the state is brought into ICIS-NPDES: K: CAFO, V: SSO, Y: CSO, W: Storm Water 9: MS4. States may also use the new wet weather, CAFO and MS4 inspections types shown in column 18 of this form. The EPA regions are required to use the new wet weather, CAFO, and MS4 inspection types for inspections with an inspection date (DTIN) on or after July 1, 2005.

NPDES
Inspection Report

Sterk Dairy of Whatcom County Inc.
Lynden, WA

Prepared by:

Jon Klemesrud
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Office of Compliance and Enforcement
Inspection and Enforcement Management Unit

[Unless otherwise noted, all details in this inspection report were obtained from conversations with John and Kevin Sterk, or from observations made during the inspection.]

I. Facility Information

Facility Name:	Sterk Dairy of Whatcom County Inc.
Facility Contact(s):	John Sterk (Owner and Operator) Phone: (b) (6)
	Kevin Sterk (Owner and Operator) Phone: (b) (6)
Facility Type:	Dairy Farm (SIC Code 0241)
Facility Location:	6432 Chasteen Rd Lynden, WA 98264
Mailing Address:	6432 Chasteen Rd Lynden, WA 98264

II. Inspection Information

Inspection Date:	March 31st, 2010
Inspectors:	Jon Klemesrud, Inspector EPA Region 10, OCE / IEMU (206) 553-5068
	Sandra Brozusky, Inspector EPA Region 10, OCE / IEMU (206) 553-5317
Arrival Time:	03:00 PM
Departure Time:	04:25 PM
Weather Condition:	Partly Cloudy

Purpose: The inspection was conducted to document the facility's compliance with the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Regulations pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA).

III. Owner and Operator Information

Sterk Dairy of Whatcom County Inc. is owned and operated by John and Kevin Sterk.

IV. Background and Facility Description

This facility is a designated medium sized CAFO dairy operation that has been (b) (6) [redacted] since 1957. The facility does not have a NPDES permit.

The dairy consists of the main confinement area, a milk parlor, land application fields, three liquid waste storage lagoons and a circular above ground liquid waste storage tank.

The farm has two other confinement areas; a "dry barn" located about a half mile east of the main facility, and a "heifer barn" located about a half mile west of the main facility. (See attachment A for aerial maps).These two areas are where dry cows and heifers are kept. These other confinement areas were also inspected along with the main facility.

The design of the waste handling system at this heifer barn and main facility is such that animal waste is scraped from the confinement pens into below ground storage tanks. These below ground tanks are then pumped as needed to the two waste storage lagoons. The waste is then pumped from the two waste storage lagoons and ultimately land applied to nearby fields. Each lagoon is connected by underground piping and can pump from one lagoon to the other.

At the dry barn facility, all animal waste is scraped from the confinement area directly to the waste lagoon located just west of the confinement area (See attachment A for an aerial map). Waste is then land applied to nearby fields as needed.

Kevin Sterk stated the he believes the total waste storage to be around 11-12 months for the main facility and heifer lagoon. The dry cow facility has over a year of storage.

The total acreage of the dairy farm is about 327 acres and the facility land applies to about 312 of them according to John Sterk. At the time of inspection the number of animals on site was about 805 cows. Heifers are out on pasture from April to October and then confined year round with the other animals.

The nearest waterway is the Four Mile Creek which runs from east to west about 200 ft directly north of Lagoon #1 at the main facility. See attachment B, Photo #4 which shows the location of the nearest waterway.

V. Scope of Inspection

This inspection consisted of an opening conference to conduct initial introductions and to discuss the purpose and expectations of the inspection, a file review, facility tour and a closing conference to discuss compliance related concerns.

VI. Facility Inspection

This was an unannounced NPDES inspection. Sandra Brozusky and I arrived at Sterk Dairy of Whatcom County Inc. at 03:00PM on Wednesday March 31st, 2010. At this time, Sandra and I presented our credentials and identified ourselves as EPA inspectors to John and Kevin Sterk. I informed them that the purpose of this visit was to conduct a compliance inspection to determine compliance with the CWA. We then proceeded to give them our business cards and began the inspection with a brief opening conference.

After the opening conference we proceeded to conduct a file review, where we reviewed the animal waste management plan (AWMP) and land application records.

John Sterk stated the most recent land application was on February 24th 2010. The application consisted of spreading 74,000 gallons. This waste was applied by using a sprinkler attached to a riser system the facility has in place. Mr. Sterk stated that a buffer of at least 75ft is used near waterways.

Following the records review we proceeded to conduct a tour of the dairy facility. The facility tour consisted of an inspection of the animal confinement pens and the confinement pen perimeter at each facility. This inspection also included a tour of the facility waste handling systems and land application fields. See Attachment B, Photo #1 Photo #2 and Photo #3, showing lagoon levels at time of inspection.

VII. Areas of Concern

We inspected the facility including the confinement areas, waste handling systems and land application fields. I did not see any areas of concern at the time of this inspection.

VIII. Closing Conference

A closing conference was held with John Sterk to discuss our inspection observations. We thanked Mr. Sterk for his time and cooperation with the inspection.

Report Completion Date: 05/24/10

Lead Inspector Signature:

ATTACHMENT A

Aerial Maps

Aerial Photo #1

Aerial Photo #2

Aerial Photo #3

ATTACHMENT B

Photograph Documentation

All Photographs were taken by Jon Klemesrud on March 31st 2010.

Photo #1: Facing north, photograph of Lagoon #1 at the time of inspection.

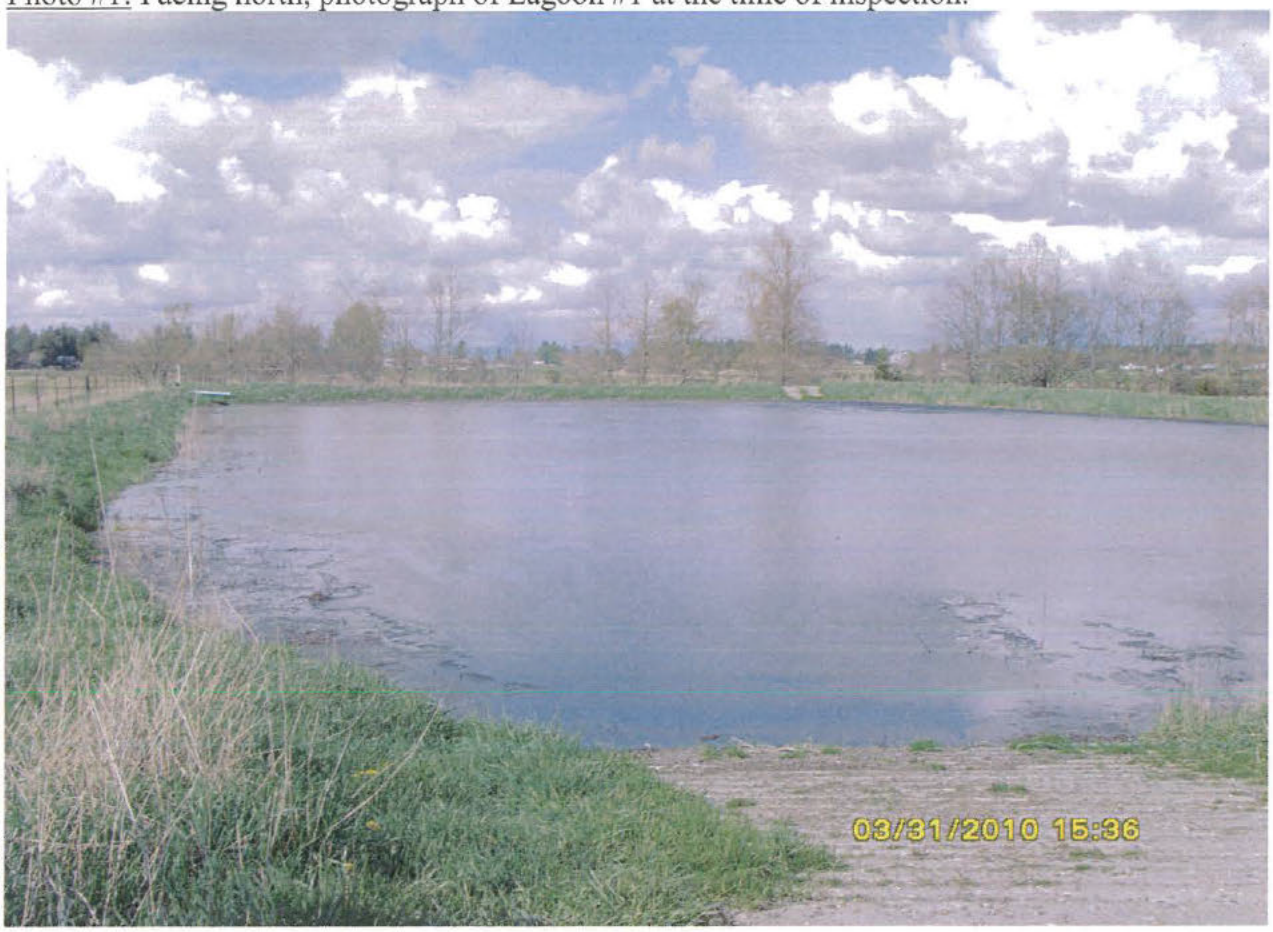

Photo #2: Facing northwest, photograph of Lagoon #2 at the time of inspection.

Photo #3: Facing west, photograph of Lagoon #3 at the time of inspection.

Photo #4: Facing east, photograph showing nearest waterway to Pond #1